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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CLAY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 17, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable WM. LACY CLAY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2020, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

FAREWELL TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise for the last time on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Growing up on a small farm in New Mexico, I never imagined that I would walk these hallowed Halls and speak from this Chamber. Of course, I did not get here alone. I stand on the shoulders of giants like Dennis Chávez and Manuel Luján and many others who

blazed a trail for me and other Hispanic Americans to serve our communities proudly in the people's House.

I also owe my public service to heroes a little closer to home: My mother, Carmen, a retired public school employee; and my late father, Ben, a union iron worker who became Speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives. They taught me that no job is too big or too small, and that we must be guided by our compassion for others. It was their passion for serving others that propelled me to seek public office. Thanks, Mom and Dad.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, and Whip CLYBURN and countless other Members for their guidance and mentorship during my career in the House and during these last 2 years that I have served as Assistant Speaker.

I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for your friendship and support.

And thank you to the freshmen Members, the new Members, who I had the honor of working with and mentoring during the 116th Congress. During a difficult time in our Nation's history, your commitment to our constituents and the Nation has inspired me every day.

Thank you to my staff, who work long hours and weekends to serve the people of New Mexico. Their support has enabled me to make progress on the issues that matter most to New Mexicans.

And, finally, thank you to the people of New Mexico's Third Congressional District. It has been such an honor to represent you. The House and I will never stop working to make a positive difference.

I am proud of what we were able to accomplish for New Mexico's Third Congressional District:

Defending the Affordable Care Act, which expanded health coverage to 270,000 New Mexicans;

Reaching across the aisle to pass bills into law combating the opioid epidemic that has ravished families and communities;

Working with my Republican colleagues to make robust investments in our world-class national labs;

Creating good-paying jobs for New Mexicans by passing measures to bolster our State's growing outdoor economy and to improve broadband deployment in our rural communities;

Passing legislation to preserve and protect Native languages for future generations;

Ensuring New Mexico's land grants and acequias are treated with dignity and respect, and can continue to thrive;

And assisting thousands of New Mexicans in navigating our Federal agencies, helping veterans and seniors secure their hard-earned benefits, taxpayers navigate the IRS, and new citizens through the naturalization process.

Mr. Speaker, I will include in the RECORD a list of 29 bills I led and 10 that I co-led that became law while I served in the House.

Come January, the Third District will have a new representative in Teresa Leger Fernandez. I know she will be a champion for working families and for New Mexico. I look forward to continuing to work with her and the rest of my friends in the New Mexico delegation from the other side of the Capitol.

I am truly humbled that the people of New Mexico have sent me to be their voice in the United States Senate. To be perfectly honest, it hasn't sunk in yet.

But I will miss the people's House. It has been the privilege of my lifetime to serve here alongside you. Let's continue to heed the call of the American

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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